AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising an external light source-employing scanner, the scanner comprising:

a scanner screen holder; and

a scanner screen having:

a rear layer of translucent plastic;

an array of photodetector/shield units having light-passing slots between neighboring photodetector/photoshield units such that light rays from an external source pass through a given slot in the array, impinge upon an object, and reflect from said object to a photodetector ~~and converted to data signals~~;

a platen layer of translucent plastic; and

a lid layer of plastic that defines an object holding space between the platen layer and the lid layer, the lid layer and platen layer spaced apart to enable the object to be moved into and out of the space on at least one side of the scanner screen.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The scanner of claim 1~~ An external light source-employing scanner comprising:

a scanner screen holder; and

a scanner screen having:

a rear layer of translucent plastic;

an array of photodetector/shield units having light-passing slots between neighboring photodetector/photoshield units such that light rays from an external source pass through a given slot in the array, impinge upon an object, and reflect from said object to a photodetector;

a platen layer of translucent plastic; and

a lid layer of plastic that defines an object holding space between the platen layer and the lid layer,

wherein a shield component of a photodetector/shield unit has a channel configuration in which a photodetector resides.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~scanner~~ apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a processor, wherein said processor is external to said scanner.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~scanner~~ apparatus of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a CRT and a computer, wherein the CRT is employed as [[an]] the external ~~light~~ source and is electrically connected to [[a]] the computer that is electrically connected to the scanner screen.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~scanner~~ apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a lens device for concentrating light from said external light source onto said object.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~scanner~~ apparatus of claim 1, wherein the scanner screen [[that]] further comprises a fourth layer of plastic material that is capable of passing light rays and also capable of passing electrical signals.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~scanner~~ apparatus of claim 1, wherein the scanner screen [[that]] further comprises a layer made of Mylar® having an electrical circuit on its surface and wherein said electrical circuit is made of a transparent conducting material.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The scanner of claim 1 further comprising~~ An apparatus comprising:

an external light source-employing scanner comprising:

a scanner screen holder; and

a scanner screen having:

a rear layer of translucent plastic;

an array of photodetector/shield units having light-passing slots between neighboring photodetector/photoshield units such that light rays from an external source pass through a given slot in the array, impinge upon an object, and reflect from said object to a photodetector;

a platen layer of translucent plastic;

a lid layer of plastic that defines an object holding space between the platen layer and the lid layer; and

electrical circuitry for adjusting said light source to provide a desired light color.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~scanner~~ apparatus of claim 1 further comprising electrical circuitry for generating a plurality of color spectral components with said light source.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~scanner~~ apparatus of claim 1, further comprising ~~wherein~~ a CRT associated with the scanner screen ~~provides~~ to provide a menu screen.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~scanner~~ apparatus of claim 1 wherein the lid layer is hingedly attached to the scanner screen.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~scanner~~ apparatus of claim 1 wherein the scanner screen further comprises a mechanical connector for securing said screen to a computer monitor.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~scanner~~ apparatus of claim 1 wherein the scanner screen is connected to the scanner screen holder by a hinge mechanism.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~scanner~~ apparatus of claim 1 wherein said scanner screen has a flat surface.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~scanner~~ apparatus of claim 1 wherein said scanner screen has a curved surface.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~scanner~~ apparatus of claim 1 wherein the scanner screen holder positions the scanner screen in a vertical position in front of a CRT.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The scanner of claim 1~~ An external light source-employing scanner comprising:

a scanner screen holder; and

a scanner screen having:

a rear layer of translucent plastic;

an array of photodetector/shield units having light-passing slots between neighboring photodetector/photoshield units such that light rays from an external source pass through a given slot in the array, impinge upon an object, and reflect from said object to a photodetector;

a platen layer of translucent plastic; and

a lid layer of plastic that defines an object holding space between the platen layer and the lid layer,

wherein the scanner screen holder has channels in which a roller wheel can turn and thereby guide the scanner screen into and out of the scanner screen holder.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~scanner~~ apparatus of claim 1 wherein the scanner screen has a slot that serves to hold a sheet of paper in a vertical orientation in front of a CRT.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The scanner of claim 1~~ An external light source-employing scanner comprising:

a scanner screen holder; and

a scanner screen having:

a rear layer of translucent plastic;

an array of photodetector/shield units having light-passing slots between neighboring photodetector/photoshield units such that light rays from an external source pass through a given slot in the array, impinge upon an object, and reflect from said object to a photodetector;

a platen layer of translucent plastic; and

a lid layer of plastic that defines an object holding space between the platen layer and the lid layer,

wherein the rear layer, platen layer and lid layer are all made of rigid plastic materials.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~scanner~~ apparatus of claim 1 wherein the rear layer, platen layer and lid layer are all made of a flexible plastic material.

21. (New) A scanner, comprising:

a holder mountable to a unit having an external light source; and

a scanner screen comprising:

a first layer of translucent material;

a second layer of translucent material;

an array of photodetectors between the first and second layers;

a third layer spaced apart from the first layer to provide space for receiving an object to be scanned,

wherein the scanner screen has a first position with respect to the holder in which the scanner screen is positioned to receive light from the external light source, and

wherein the scanner screen is moveable with respect to the holder from the first position to a second position in which the scanner screen is stowed in the holder.

22. (New) The scanner of claim 21, wherein the scanner screen is attached to the holder by at least one roller wheel to enable relative movement between the scanner screen and the holder.

23. (New) The scanner of claim 22, wherein the scanner screen is hingedly attached to the holder by the at least one roller wheel.

24. (New) The scanner of claim 21, wherein the third layer is moveably mounted with respect to the second layer to facilitate loading and removal of the object in the space.

25. (New) A method of using a scanner with respect to an external light source, comprising:

mounting the scanner to a unit containing the external light source, wherein the scanner has a holder and a scanner screen;

moving the scanner screen from a stowed position in the holder to a second position in which the scanner screen is positioned to receive light from the external light source;

loading an object to be scanned into a slot in the scanner; and

activating the scanner to scan the object.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the unit comprises a computer having a display that provides the external light source,

wherein activating the scanner is in response to activation of a user interface element displayed by the display.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the electrical circuitry is activated in response to selection of a user interface element displayed in a display.